

Official Code of Georgia Requirements

Description

There are three product categories which state agencies, departments and authorities are specifically required by State law to buy with recycled content. DOAS State Purchasing has implemented policies to ensure compliance with the above guidelines.

- **OCGA 50-5-60.2, USE OF RECYCLED PAPER PRODUCTS**, requires state agencies, departments and authorities to purchase recycled printing and writing paper for most of their printing and office paper needs. State agencies are required to track and report their printing and writing paper purchases. These recycled paper reporting requirements are discussed in more detail below.
- **OCGA 50-5-60.3, USE OF RETREADED TIRES**, requires state agencies, departments and authorities to replace worn truck tires on non-steering axles, whose rim size is greater than 16 inches, with retreaded tires. State Purchasing administers an agency contract for the Georgia DOT to access truck tire retreading services. All state agencies are allowed to piggy-back off of this contract.
- **OCGA 50-5-60.4, USE OF COMPOST AND MULCH**, requires all agencies, departments and authorities which are responsible for the maintenance of public lands to give preference to the use of compost and mulch, which have been made from organic materials recovered from the waste stream, in accordance with Georgia Department of Agriculture specifications. For any contract involving maintenance of public lands, State Purchasing recommends that agencies include the following clause giving preference to compost and mulch made with organics recovered from Georgia's non-hazardous waste stream.

While maintaining public lands, contractor(s) shall maximize the practical use of compost and mulch which have been made from organic materials recovered from Georgia's non-hazardous waste stream, in accordance with Official Code of Georgia 50-5-60.4. Compost and mulch shall meet *Georgia Department of Agriculture Compost and Mulch Standards*, dated December 29, 1993.

Recycled Paper Purchasing and Reporting Requirements

OCGA 50-5-60.2 requires agencies, commissions, and authorities to purchase recycled content paper for their printing and writing paper needs. 95% of the dollars spent on printing and writing paper must go towards recycled content paper. Exceptions are allowed only if the documented bid price of the recycled content paper is more than 8% higher than the documented bid price of virgin paper, or if certain recycled paper does not meet the quality level established by the Department of Administrative Services.

Printing and writing paper means high grade office paper including but not limited to copier paper, bond paper, forms, stationery, envelopes, text and cover stock, as well as offset printing paper.

Quick Facts About Recycled Product Purchasing

Each year, state agencies save over 18,000 trees, 6 million gallons of water, and 151 million-kilowatt hours of electricity by purchasing recycled office paper instead of virgin paper.

Each year, state agencies not only save over \$175,000 by purchasing retreaded truck tires, they also save over 25,000 gallons of oil, and 1500 large truck tires from the landfill.

Just one recycled plastic picnic table can recycle approximately 3,000 milk jugs.

It has been proven that the use of compost and mulch will improve soil porosity, suppress weeds, improve water retention and reduce soil erosion. Agency can reduce their need for chemical fertilizers and herbicides by using compost and mulch.

Recycled content paper means paper, which meets or exceeds EPA guidelines for recycled fiber content.

When writing specifications for printing and writing paper, agencies can simply state a requirement for paper, which meets or exceeds the EPA guidelines for recycled fiber content. To verify the level of recycled content, it is recommended that state agencies copy and include the Certification of Product Content Form, included as Attachment I, with all printing and writing paper bids. This form can be used for all products that contain recovered materials, not just paper.

Agencies, commissions, and authorities are required to monitor, document, and report its use of recycled content paper. The forms on the opposing pages provide an example of how recycled paper is tracked and reported. Reports are due on September 1st of each year. If an agency documents compliance for two consecutive years, they must continue to purchase recycled content paper, but they no longer have to report.